SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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Nixon clamours about phoney peace while waging real war

editorial

The key of the US "POW" camps

ONCE again Mr Nixon manifests his humane feelings, by launching a "week of prayers" for American "POWs." It is not the first time this poor C-in-C of the US Army shows his concern to the US "POWs." More than once, he has spoken of negotiating the issue with the other side. Has he not even staged together with Bob Hope the comedy of bartering the release of US "POWs" for the building of children's hospitals in North Viet Nam? And at the recent 146th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the head of the US delegation, William Porter, set forth anew the "POW" question and asked for an "answer without delay."

Mr Nixon is free to lament as he likes on the plight of the GIs he himself has sent to die and litter Viet Nam paddy-fields with their bodies or to be captured and detained there. However, the thing people want to know is whether or not Mr Nixon is really tormented by the fate of those who are now crowding Hilton *Hotels in Viet Nam. One has more than one reason to doubt his humanitarianism. For instance, while speaking with emotion of his daughter's birthday in a speech and rejoicing noisily at "the future of our children," he sends B.52s to destroy Vietnamese villages with bombs which cannot discriminate little children from the "Vietcongs." Finally, Nixon's love for children has been exclusively for his own ones who live in luxury. What has he done in the USA for those wretched lads and lasses turned into criminals?*

NOW let us come back to those US servicemen captured in Viet Nam. Who and what is responsible for their custody in Viet Nam Hilton *Hotels where they are thinking over and over of their crimes? Have any Vietnamese intruded into New York or California to bring them over here and take a costly and needless care of them? No! These armed guests have been sent by Mr Nixon himself to kill people here and get captured. It is Mr Nixon himself and nobody else who is entirely responsible for the "POWs" ' fate before the Americans.*

The Vietnamese wish that captured American servicemen be united again with their families at an early date. We have long put forward a solution to the problem. The RSVN PRG's 7-point peace initiative has made it clear: "If the US government fixes a date for the withdrawal from South Viet Nam in 1971 of the totality of US forces and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp, the parties will at the same time agree on modalities for:

a) the withdrawal in safety from South Viet Nam of the totality of US forces and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp;

b) the release of the totality of militarymen of all parties and civilians captured in the war (including American pilots captured in North Viet Nam), so that they may all rapidly return home."

In its statement of February 2, 1972, the RSVN PRG stressed: "The US government must set a specific terminal date for the complete withdrawal of all US troops, advisers, military personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever. This specific terminal date will also be the date for the release of all militarymen of the parties and of the civilians captured in the war (including the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam).

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CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO'S

MESSAGE TO THE URBAN POPULATION OF SOUTH VIET NAM

ON the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of Viet Nam Anti-US Day, March 19 *Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho has sent a letter to all the combatants, and people of Saigon-Cholon and other cities of South Viet Nam.*

After pointing to the significance of March 19, 1950 *and the struggle of the South Vietnamese people against US imperialism over the past years, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho laid stress on the glorious tradition of solidarity of the South Vietnamese and their armed forces who have been valiantly fighting and defeating one after another all the strategies of US aggressive war and recording tremendous victories.*

Though being heavily defeated, the Nixon administration remain very stubborn and perfidious. They are still sticking to their aggressive policy, prolonging the war in South Viet Nam and intensifying it in the whole of Indochina, pitting Indochinese against Indochinese, Asians against Asians and committing untold crimes against the Indochinese peoples.

On the one hand, Nixon has been making a fuss about his "8-point peace plan", a "negotiated solution", "the right to self-determination" of the Indochinese peoples, on the other the Nixon administration has sabotaged step by step the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. They refused to respond seriously to the RSVN PRG's 7-point peace initiative the two key points of which were elucidated in the RSVN PRG's statement of February 2, 1972. US aircraft, with increased B.52s and fighter-bombers, conduct daily air-raids over South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. In the US-Thieu controlled areas they exploit and repress ruthlessly the population of South Viet Nam to implement the "Vietnamization" of the war, driving them to dire misery.

In an attempt to stamp out the people's anti-US-Thieu movement, they have persecuted savagely numerous personalities, intellectuals, students, pupils and journalists in Saigon, Hue and other cities. But such frenzied repression only incenses the hatred of the various social strata which put up a stiff resistance.

It is clear that the US imperialists have not yet renounced to their aggressive design. They stubbornly carry on the "Vietnamization" of the war, and the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina. That is why the South Vietnamese people, shoulder to shoulder with their kith and kin in the North, and together with the Lao and Cambodian peoples are resolved to step up perseveringly and vigorously their struggle till complete victory.

No cruelty, no insolent threat, nor perfidious scheme from the US imperialists can divert the South Vietnamese people from their sacred objective: to liberate the South, realize an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, in advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

The key of the US...

(Continued from page 1)

BUT Mr Nixon keeps turning a deaf ear to all this. He raises a hue and cry after the "ill-treatment of American 'POWs' and makes a hullabaloo about the Geneva Convention at the moment when the US government is setting up more "tiger cages" in Poulo Condor island to detain, persecute and torture Vietnamese patriots. American scientist G. Wald after his visit to Viet Nam has shut Mr Nixon up by exposing the latter's "refined cruelty" through fallacious allegations about the "POW" issue. In G. Wald's opinion, it was the very captured American pilots he met who had been "surprised" by cares and good treatment from Vietnamese farmers and military authorities.

It is clear that there has never been no ill-treatment of "POWs" or any way to settle the problem. But so far, no hints have been heard from Mr Nixon of a time-limit for the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam, so as to end the war and solve the question of captured US militarymen. Instead, the pull-out of his troops from South Viet Nam has been carried out for the furtherance of his "Vietnamization" of the war, and with the design to leave behind part of American troops for a long time, as a core for the Saigon army and a support for the quisling administration in pursuance of the US war of aggression.

Gradual repatriation of American GIs has offered Mr Nixon an occasion to make a great fuss about the "reduction of casualties." But the fact is that while phasing out troops withdrawal, he has increased US air-support to the Saigon army and repeatedly conducted air attacks on the DRVN territory and the other Indochinese countries. Of course, every war act of his could not stave off due punishment. The list of captured US air marauders keeps lengthening and Hilton *Hotels in Viet Nam are now overcrowded. Is Mr Nixon full of solicitude for the "POWs" and really eager to settle the issue? Undoubtedly, his humanitarian feelings are merely lazy words, if not transparent screens to cover up his vicious scheme of sending the boys to an unnecessary death in Viet Nam.*

AT the 146th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, William Porter went to the length of urging the "inspection" of POWs camps in exchange of US cessation of surprise attacks to set free the American "prisoners." Mr Nixon has picked up a really original negotiator, indeed. Though not too old, William Porter goes on drivelling: the last time he "departed without leaving his address" and this time he takes the "POWs" camps for the backyard of his house. May we ask Mr W. Porter, the "talented" negotiator of the USA: As Mr Nixon has been allowed to organize commando groups to liberate the "POWs", can't the Vietnamese reserve for themselves the right to capture more American bandits? What has his previous "coup" showed to the world? In the first place, his piratical act has been duly punished. A helicopter was downed near the "POWs" camp, and a number of US "POWs" wounded during the adventure. The next incursions, if they take place, will certainly court more than this.

IN the last ditch, Mr Nixon often turns rash. But is it that there is actually no solution to the "POW" issue? Why is he so fond of sending commando teams to set free the prisoners, instead of fixing a time-limit for the total withdrawal of US troops and ending the war, so that captured US servicemen may soon join their families, as proposed by the RSVN PRG's 7-point peace initiative?

The Americans are angered by Mr Nixon's reluctance to let down Nguyen Van Thieu, that mini-quisling to whom he pays more consideration than to the fate of the US "POWs." This would be a wrong accusation. For Mr Nixon wants nothing but a draught power for his "Vietnamization" chariot. It is just because of this worn-out and obsolete war chariot that he is still unwilling to bring all the GIs home, and busy now with increasing air forces and air-strikes, thus lengthening the list of the "POWs." And that is the very reason why he selected the "POW" issue as a trump-card to divert public opinion in the USA, while boasting of the humanitarian feelings of a US president in want of more votes for the coming election.

Hence, Mr Nixon's humanism is that of a crocodile. The key of the US "POWs" camp is in his own hands. Why are the doors of the camp not yet open to let the inmates rejoin their families and the States? Ask Mr Nixon, please!

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

WE WILL LIVE UP TO OUR PLEDGE

(Excerpt from a letter from Nguyen Thi Loc, a Poulor Condor woman prisoner, to a woman friend)

ONE morning in 1970, the jailers of the Saigon Central Prison drove us, 120 women detainees, into a van which started immediately. The eldest of us was 25, our average age was 18-20 years. 15 girls were only 13. Almost all of us had been detained from 3 to 5 years in various prisons (Thu Duc, Chi Hoa, Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon...) and submitted to savage torture. We expected to be sent to another prison with US newly-invented methods of torture.

The escort unusually comprised one GI,—pistol in hand,—for every 10 Saigonese soldiers with fixed bayonets, armed to the teeth. I thought to myself: "We are going to be shot!". Some comrades heaved a sigh and whispered: "Well, that'll be the end of our sufferings."

I pondered over my fate. Since my imprisonment, I was ready to die for my ideal. But I still had a 3-year-old son, my old mother, my younger brother who lived in my home village, under the constant threat of bombings, shellings and chemicals sprayings. I didn't fear death, but how my folks would suffer from death! Mrs Ba, who was sitting by me, murmured: "If by any chance you survived me please look after my only daughter. Tell her her mother has been liquidated by the Yankee aggressors!" Others of our mates clenched their teeth to suppress tears...

The truck stopped. We were pushed down. I had no idea where we were. It was a landing stage. My sight had weakened since I had been confined for three years. I was dazzled by the sudden light. We were herded into the close and stuffy hold of a ship. Many young girls fainted. One of them died and was thrown into the sea.

At twilight, the ship stopped. We landed. As we were seasick we vaguely heard: "Poulo Condor!" So we had been taken to Poulo Condor.

Poulo Condor! These words conjured up before my eyes ghastly visions. I recalled the tragic stories told me by my fellow-villagers coming back from this penitentiary hell. I was now faced, not with stories, but with realities.

We were soon put to all forms of torture: red hot tongs biting thighs and genitals, soap water and sewer water forced into mouths and nostrils, pins driven into the tips of the ten fingers, immersion in a barrel full of dirty water, electrical shocks, injection of "lie detecting" drugs, etc."

But since our arrest we had been accustomed to such atrocities.

I remembered a sad scene in Thu Duc prison. Nguyen Thi Cuc, a 14-year-old girl, had been tortured for three consecutive days. Before dying, she gasped out a few words: "Farewell, sisters!... I've done no wrong. My only crime was to love peace... They've killed me. Fare you well, sisters!"

On Poulo Condor, the Americans use various means to destroy us physically and morally, in particular to break the fighting spirit of male prisoners. Female prisoners were at first incarcerated apart. They have been later on confined with male prisoners in overcrowded rooms.

We, female prisoners were one day put to the torture. The beatings were so brutal that our clothes were torn to pieces and our bodies covered with blood. Some of us were raped by jailers in front of their male roommates.

The jailers even forced male prisoners to rape their female mates in front of them. Of course, we resisted such bestial orders. Disappointed, they set police dogs on us. We defended ourselves with determination. They then thrusted cudgels into some women prisoners' vagina, causing sudden death...

How can we list and describe all those horrors!

Our jailers are true cannibals whose head is Nixon himself. Since his accession to the White House, the methods of torture have multiplied here. "Tiger cages", "cow houses", "pig-sties", "rabbit hutches" and other cells have been set up while the Poulo Condor cemetery has been dotted with fresh tombs.

We, female prisoners are ready to endure any trials, however hard they may be. As women of South Viet Nam, we are determined to be worthy of the women of South Viet Nam. We say to one another:

"Only the struggle gives beauty to our love.

"Only by keeping our pledge can we enjoy the joy of living."

We have taken this oath:

"We accept death so that our country may live."

We'll never wince under cruelty and violence. We'll carry on our struggle until our country re-conquers independence and freedom.

Poulo Condor,
February 1972

WOMEN STEP UP ANTI-US-THIEU STRUGGLE

US - Thieu "Vietnamization" prejudices the right to live of millions of families in South Viet Nam, chiefly of the town women. With all their methods of exploitation and unpopular economic measures, the US and its hirelings have driven the South Vietnamese people, especially the town women, into a precarious plight. The prices of staple commodities and goods have been spiralling while women labourers in the cities continue to receive starvation wages. For all their hard work they can hardly make both ends meet. How can they afford medicines and medicare in case of illness or a decent education for their children? A great many women working at various enterprises or companies get no maternity allowances, no medical treatment when sick, and no compensations for accidents... Women vendors in the streets or markets have fallen prey to high taxes, plunders and robberies, fines, removals of houses or market stalls... Beside the difficulties and misery in their material life, women in the South Viet Nam cities have had husbands and sons impressed into the Saigon army. An alien culture and a corrupt way of living now prevalent in the cities have been hurting many women's dignity, and have turned many of them into play things for killers.

The more the US-Thieu clique strives to implement "Vietnamization," the greater the town women's misery, and the more distressful their life, the greater the risk of separation from their families. Therefore, there is no other way to wrest back their right to live and human right than to struggle against US-Thieu and "Vietnamization." Consequently, in the past decade, especially in recent years, women in the cities, irrespective of profession, political tendency, religion and age, have closed their ranks within the immense front of the urban population and continually resisted the US-Thieu criminal schemes and acts to implement "Vietnamization," fought against the alien culture and education which train servants for the imperialists, against pornography and the depraved way of living which have no regard for women's dignity. They have been fighting to safeguard the national cultural heritage and fine habits and customs, and to recover independence and sovereignty for South Viet Nam. Most ebullient were the actions against the fraudulent elections repression and terror, press-ganging and the movement for the return of their relatives sent by the US-Thieu regime to die on the Cambodian and Lao battlefields.

To intimidate and check the movement of the South Vietnamese town women, the US-Thieu regime has been resorting to ruthless violence. It has arrested many of its leaders. It thought that the jailing of Mme Ngo Ba Thanh and woman professor Tran Thi Lan, would roll back the women's protest or the imprisonment of Mme To Sang would stamp out the strike of the Vidopin enterprise's workers. But in reality it has only poured oil on the flame.

Steeled by the sufferings and hardships due to the war and hardened by oppression and exploitation for over one-fourth of a century, the women of the South Viet Nam cities have been valiantly and dauntlessly resisting the enemy of the people right in their dens with intelligence and creativeness and all the zeal of mothers. Their aim is not only to liberate themselves and the Vietnamese people from the international gendarme's grip but also to achieve the lofty objectives of the world women movement. Accordingly their effort against the US-Thieu and "Vietnamization" has enlisted the firm support of the women and people throughout the country, and at the same time the warm approval and backing of the world women movement and progressive American women. It has also derived great inspiration from the militancy of the latter against the US government's unjust and immoral war, against the US capitalist bosses' oppression and exploitation. It has similarly drawn new strength from the world women' sympathy and support.

Saigon students battling against Thieu's police

in the cities

• On March 14 and 15, 1972 thousands of secondary school youths in Hue held spirited demonstrations in front of the Thua Thien provincial chief's office demanding release of Professor Ngo Kha and 14 other intellectuals arbitrarily arrested in Saigon and Dalat at the end of February 1972.

• On March 18, the Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime published in Saigon a manifesto opposing Nguyen Van Thieu's persecution of 15 intellectuals in Saigon, Hue and Dalat, and condemning it as an attempt to crack down on personalities of the "opposition" in the mass, political and religious organizations in Saigon so as to "sabotage the South Vietnamese people's efforts for peace and national concord."

• In the afternoon of March 14, students Ha Dinh Nguyen and Ngo Van Hai, leader and vice-leader of the students' delegation of the Faculty of Letters in Saigon were arrested, and before them Ngo The Ly, president of the Dalat Buddhist Students Association, was apprehended under the charge that the paper of his organization had welcomed the South Viet Nam National Liberation Front and Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh.

• On March 18, 6,000 students of the Faculty of Letters in Saigon staged a strike against Nguyen Van Thieu's fascist repression of school youths and released a communiqué condemning Thieu for striving with Nixon's support to stifle the people's longing for peace, and continuing the "Vietnamization" of the war.

The previous day, 32 peace organizations had put out a statement scoring Nguyen Van Thieu's arrest of Ha Dinh Nguyen and Ngo Van Hai and pressing for an end to the terror and persecution of school youths and members of the "opposition."

• At 8 p.m. on March 9, policemen in Tuy Hoa (Phu Yen province) shot dead Ha Trap and wounded Duong Van Canh when they were riding home on a Honda from school.

In the morning of March 10, thousands of children of Nguyen Hue and Bo De schools at Tuy Hoa staged a protest demonstration around the police station of the town.

At 3 p.m. of the Tan Dan school, the Agricultural, Forest and Veterinary school and others joined in a strike to support the demonstration which set in turmoil the whole town. Policemen shot at the demonstrators, wounding five school children, and arrested many others. This only exacerbated the protesters who went on with their action.

• Of late, over 2,100 private school teachers sent to the Saigon National Defence Ministry a protest against their impressing into the Saigon army and urging application of the "special duty" regulation in their favour.

On March 6, 400 teachers attending a crash course at the "private professional centre" in Saigon interrupted their training in protest against the cutting off by the Saigon Ministry of Education of the allowances granted them during their three months of training.

• In the afternoon of March 8, all the workers at the "Michelin" firm in Saigon picketed its workshops in protest against the employers' refusal to pay production bonuses for over 3,200 tubes they had turned out. The walk-out is continuing until their claim will be met, the workers said.

• The spokesman of the Saigon TU organization blamed Nguyen Van Thieu for the lay-off of the workers of most of the enterprises in Saigon. A meeting will be held this month by this organization to consider measures to defend the interests of these workers.

SAIGON police in Bong Son post (Hoai Nhon district capital) arbitrarily arrested on March 10 Huynh Thi Hien, a Buddhist native to An Hao village (Hoai An district), and tortured her to death.

Upon learning the news the victim's family together with people herded in the concentration zones of An Hao and An Hoa villages turned out into the streets on March 11, angrily clamouring for punishment of the murderers. The protest which lasted 6 consecutive days ended March 16 again erupted ever fiercer on March 19. On March 13, the number of participants already rose to 50,000, including people from the 3 neighbouring districts, Buddhist believers, pupils, students; countrymen and citizens, armymen and officers, Saigon civil servants and even Saigon Lower House deputies. Besides, thousands of pupils, students and people in Quy Nhon (capital of Binh Dinh), Hue, Quang Nam, Da Nang, Quang Ngai and Saigon who sought by all means to converge on Bong Son to take part in the march. In Hoai Nhon district alone, about 12,000 people joined in the action. Nearly 90 per cent of armymen in the region sided with protesters. Two platoons of Saigon troops kept watch on the victim's body and prevented the police agents from approaching it.

Mammoth Demonstration Against the Murder of a Buddhist

On March 18, pupils, students and other people of Quy Nhon, armed with sticks and lances and riding in 18 vehicles, streamed to Bong Son to swell the ranks of the marchers. For 6 days on end (from March 11 to 16), all corners inside and outside that district capital were crowded with angry protesters. All the communication lines linking Bong Son with outside were cut off. Tens of thousands of people continually broke into, besieged and ransacked the Bong Son police station.

The mass impetuous protest caused a great fear to the quisling authorities in Binh Dinh. The province governor had to come to Bong Son and sought to soothe the popular feeling. But the unrest continued to gain in intensity and magnitude. The protesters demanded that the US-Thieu clique own up the crime, pay adequate compensations to the victim's family, punish the murderers and put an end to all arrests, torture and killings.

in our liberated areas

o The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee sent on March 13, 1972 a message of greeting to the 13th Congress of the Italian Communist Party.

o On March 13, 1972, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a protest against US intensification of the war of aggression in Laos: "The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam fully support the March 8, 1972 statement of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee and strongly condemn the criminal and savage aggression and war escalations of the Nixon administration against the Lao people."

o A message was recently sent by the South Viet Nam Federation of Liberation Trade Unions to the Central Council of Japanese Trade Unions to hail the rally held by Japanese labouring people against the Japan-USA Security Treaty and for the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples.

The South Viet Nam Federation of Liberation Trade Unions has also deputized Huynh Van Thau, one of its executive member, to attend the 7th Congress of the Bulgarian Trade Unions.

o On the occasion of the "International Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam" organized in many US cities, the South Viet Nam Union of Students and Federation of Youth for Liberation sent on March 12, 1972 a joint message to the American Students' Union.

o A symposium was held at the beginning of March 1972 by the Central Trung Bo Association of Peasants for Liberation to consider continued implementation of the agrarian policy with a view to impelling agricultural production, supplying more to the front while achieving close co-ordination with offensives and uprisings in rural areas and the plains.

The symposium discussed measures to carry on the agrarian policy so as to encourage and help the peasants in land reclamation, to assert their land ownership in the liberated areas and help those still living in "strategic hamlets," resettlement areas and urban centres return to the free zone where they will devote themselves to agricultural production. It also dealt with ways to guarantee the right to land ownership of, and distribution of land to, those peasants forcibly drafted into the Saigon army and now still in enemy ranks, and members of their families.

o After nine months of study, 42 students were graduated in the first batch of medics trained by the Military Health Service of Ben Tre province. They have taken up their posts. A graduation ceremony was also held by the Physicians' School at Baria, Long Khanh: 42 students were graduated physicians in this second batch in academic year 1970-71.

o At the end of February 1972, the Kien Phong Medical Service staged a ceremony to hail its achievements in 1971 and launch a drive for the fulfilment of its 1972 tasks.

A WAY OUT: THE PRG 10-POINT POLICY

"WE welcome the humane 10-point policy of the PRG because it has opened a way out to us. We will not let the US-Thieu gang force us to die for them," said Saigon policemen, regular army officers and soldiers in Cai Day, Cai Be and Chau Thanh district, My Tho province. It is a view shared by many others in the Saigon armed forces across South Viet Nam since the announcement of the PRG 10 points on February 25 this year.

Desertions, mutinies and anti-war drives

In 1971, as a result of serious reverses on different Indochinese fronts, the morale of the Saigon army has dropped to a new low. Never had the desire for peace and for an end to the hostilities among officers and soldiers been so strong as last year. To varying degrees these have realized the viciousness of Vietnamization — the use of Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese. Many have been trying to avoid a meaningless death, or — in a more active way — to undertake actions to help save their families, their countrymen, their fatherland. A short time after the said policy was made public, many overtly listened to Liberation Radio and Radio Hanoi in spite of their superiors' ban. Others adopted a more resolute attitude by tearing government posters, or refusing to take part in the October "presidential elections." Others dispersed or shot at hirelings soliciting votes for Thieu as at Bay Hien cross-road in Saigon or Tay Hoi at nearby Gia Dinh. In Can Tho city, on election day, armymen irrupted into poll booths and smashed ballot boxes.

Drives against the war, against troop deployments, suppport-pacification operations and incursions into Laos and Cambodia, for US troop withdrawal, for peace and "the right to live" in the quisling army assumed great proportions in 1971, 2,730 such actions of battalion to regimental size occurred apart from hundreds of mutinies — one of which, in the U Minh jungle area, involved no less than 10 battalions of Division 9 and Division 21. 1,300 anti-war protests were mounted by *bao an* (security forces) and *dan ve* (militia) a number of them ten or so times in a short period. "Cease-fires in place" took place at over 3,600 garrisons with adverse influence on the pacification program.

Mutinies flared up every month almost everywhere. Patriotic elements wounded and killed over 4,960 wicked ones, including 142 from company to field officers' rank, levelled 11 garrisons, handed 2,000 rifles to the people's authorities and destroyed a great amount of weapons and war means. Over 147,900 officers and soldiers went A.W.O.L. to return home or take part in the anti-US resistance. 2 battalions, 39 companies, 422 platoons and 40 sections deserted wholesale.

As regards the militia, disintegration went at a quicker rate and more weapons were passed to the revolutionary power than in 1970. All told, 45,495 militiamen turned against the US-Saigon regime and 1,140 rifles brought to the people's authorities. The disintegrated units included 300 companies, 238 groups and 17 inter-groups or 5 times more than last year. A fair number of those who had been forcibly impressed joined forces with the local population in punishing wicked thugs, capturing rifles and dismantling the militia network.

An enlightening policy

The disintegration of the Saigon army has grown much more serious in the first three months of this year, especially since the proclamation of the 10-point policy.

In *Quang Tri* and *Thua Thien* provinces, there are desertions virtually every day. They are rising in Division 1, of which two-thirds of a company of Regiment 3 has defected. In the first ten days of January, patriotic elements at *Quang Da* disobeyed combat orders, punished cruel ones and crossed over to the people's side. On Jan. 15, 23, 29, others stationed at *Duy Xuyen* mutinied, suppressed die-hards and destroyed a 105 mm gun before rejoining the NFL ranks.

Similar actions happened repeatedly in *Central Trung Bo*, from the plains to the High Plateaux, especially in Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Darlac provinces. In January 1,000 men went over the hill and 6 militia platoons mutinied, killing about 100 cruel agents and bringing hundreds of rifles to the people's power.

The 10-point policy has been welcomed by officers and men of the Saigon armed forces in almost every province of *Nam Bo*. 200 militiamen along Highway 1 in Baria and Long Khanh attended meetings of briefing on the PRG policy. Many expressed gratitude for the revolutionary government's sympathy with their lot and promised to follow the path it had shown them. Others met people in the neighbourhood of their garrisons to get details about the 10 points.

In January this year thousands of *dan ve* and *bao an* in Central Nam Bo received help from the population in their anti-war actions. In My Tho city, no sooner had *dan ve* (militia) of a platoon been "upgraded" into a *bao an* (security forces) unit than 16 of them deserted. In five days, more than 60 *bao an* of Thoi Lai, Vang Quoc, Dai Dien and An Thuan villages, Ben Tre province, escaped not to be enrolled in the regular army. Meanwhile, *bao an* and *dan ve* of Mo Cay, Giong Trom and Chau Thanh districts, also Ben Tre province, and of many areas in My Tho and An Giang provinces used sticks and jungle knives to punish cruel policemen engaged in impressing drives. They thus freed 50 youths and helped hundreds of people fight successfully against forced military training.

In the first fifteen days of February nearly 200 officers and soldiers in Ben Tre province left the ranks of the Saigon army. After reading the PRG 10 points in leaflets they had been personally distributed, a lieutenant commander of a garrison, a second lieutenant and another garrison commander in Giong Trom district, met representatives of the people's revolutionary power to discuss ways and means to carry the PRG policy into effect. In Binh Hoa village people briefed through megaphones the Tay Kinh garrison about the PRG policy towards Saigon armymen. When the deputy garrison chief fired a shot in reply, his chief bluntly told him: "They've opened a way out to you, why don't you listen to them? Maybe you want to die. I'll have you shifted to another place or we all will get killed with you."

On Tet eve (Feb. 14), hundreds of officers and soldiers in Duc Hoa, Tan Binh, Binh Chanh, Ben Duc, Chau Thanh, Tan Tru, Can Duoc and Can Giuoc districts, Long An province overtly told one another to leave for home — 400 regulars, and *dan ve* of ten companies in Duc Hoa alone. So did hundreds of *bao an*, paratroops, men of the air force, regular army and police in Bien Hoa city despite Thieu's strict leave-cancelling orders. Many commented with satisfaction, "Whereas Thieu's order practically boils down to keeping us under house arrest, the Front's suspension of attacks enables us to spend Tet with our families."

US AIR FORCE IN NIXON'S VIETNAMIZED WAR

SINCE entering the White House Nixon has been telling the American people the lie that he has been seeking a US disentanglement from a war the previous administration has got the country deeply involved in. The fact is that over the past 3 years this war has grown more ferocious. Nixon has extended it to all of Indochina and embarked on many military adventures which formerly Johnson himself dared not think of. Along with the fielding of mercenary troops with the co-ordination of US military forces in major aggressive operations against Cambodia and Laos and continuous air strikes against North Viet Nam, Nixon has ordered the step-up of savage bombing drives in the 3 Indochinese countries. He has raised a ballyhoo about the "pull-out of ground troops" but still keeps a dense veil of secrecy over the escalating air war. The American press itself has disclosed that the bomb tonnage used in the first 3 years of Nixon's presidency has been bigger than in Johnson's 4 years of office (*Christian Science Monitor*, Dec. 2, 1971). Many American correspondents back from the Indochina war zone have also noted that in the last 2 years, the use of air power has increased since the US began withdrawing its ground troops (*BBC*, Dec. 20, 1971).

There is no doubt that the US air war keeps growing. Following the failure of the air war and forced stoppage of bombings against North Viet Nam, since the beginning of 1969 the US has concentrated its air attacks on South Viet Nam. Apart from additional deliveries of war vessels and aircraft to the Saigon army, more planes have arrived in US air bases in South Viet Nam. "By now," *Newsweek* March 15, 1971 wrote, "the Army has more than 12,000 helicopters — 4,000 of them in Viet Nam."

After the return to Vietnamese waters of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Enterprise* in mid-October 1971, Nixon recently dispatched 4 attack carriers to Yankee Station, while 7 others were prowling off South Viet Nam coast (the peak figure for 1968 was 5). 45 more B.52s have been sent to Guam and Thailand, to double their strength there, to say nothing of an additional 500 or more tactical aircraft for intensified strikes in the 3 Indochinese countries. Obviously, Nixon has changed US armed forces to prolong the aggressive war with his "Vietnamization" program.

In "Vietnamization," with the growing and massive participation and activity of the US air force, the American war in South Viet Nam has not operated the slightest alteration in its nature and, far from becoming a war of Vietnamese as Nixon has often claimed, is getting bloodier with deeper and deeper US involvement and with new monstrous US crimes perpetrated in the course of this war. Forced to bring home a major part of the US ground forces, Nixon has ordered the American fliers to take over the combat role from the foot soldiers. This is a field application of Nixon's new idea and concept concerning the use of forces. As the American press has put it, the air and naval forces are how the foundations of the Nixon doctrine. In the light of the lessons they have learnt from their failure in the use of ground troops to fight a land war on Asia's mainland, especially the Viet Nam war, and on the strength of their subjective assessment of modern US air and naval power, the top war makers in the White House have arrived at the counclusion that real US power is in the air and on the sea. In the opinion of Nixon and Co, the use of air power in the Viet Nam war is likely to extricate the US from the difficulties arising from troop shortage on the ground and may help carry out offensive operations without a heavy drain on troop strength. Furthermore it does not necessitate the mobilizing of substantial man-power, and therefore can conceal the aggressive nature of US imperialism and cool down the anti-war movement at home.

In this new strategy, the US air force at the same time plays the strategic, tactical and combat roles while taking a direct part in the ground war instead of being simply a support force. US aircraft have attacked the liberated areas, interdicted the supply lines of the adversary, supported native client ground troops in small and big-size operations and, with their own fire power, provided direct protection for US quisling bases and defence lines. Day and night they have been massacring civilians in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos and those in North Viet Nam. The frantic current US air activity is a clear indication that the US expeditionary troops are continuing their direct involvement in the aggressive war in South Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries. US air force is really the strategic workhorse of the Nixon's Vietnamization.

Nevertheless, realities in the battlefield in the past few years have thwarted Nixon's desire. US air power has proved its ineffectiveness in all of its roles. Nixon and Abrams had thought the air power hurled into the invasion of Southern Laos early in 1971 could make up for the weakness of the troops assigned to ground fighting and enable the 20,000 Saigon soldiers to do a job which normally requires from 80,000 to 100,000 men. But when it happened that the enemy anti-aircraft fire was swatting down US choppers like flies, when "the adversary reacted more effectively than any previous times and was really carrying out a holocaust of helicopters" (*Nouvel Observateur*, March 19, 1971) and when came the advice that "the US Army may have to reappraise some of its grand designs for fighting land wars from the sky" (*Newsweek*, March 15, 1971), the Southern Laos adventure turned out to be a bitter lesson for the US aggressors.

The very men who had tried to "break the will" of the adversary, to "demoralize" him by extending the air war to North Viet Nam were the first to be stunned and embarrassed when they failed to attain their strategic goals. And the very authors of operations "Rolling Barrel" and "Rolling Thunder" designed to interdict the adversary's support and supply movement were the first to feel grieved at the impotence of the air force.

The Western press has remarked that the use of US air power in Indochina has been the costliest and less effective military effort in history (*BBC*, Dec. 20, 1971).

With the intensification of the air war and the use of the US air force as the substitute for a part of the withdrawing US troops to drag out the war, Nixon hopes to secure a military victory. But the greater his ambition, the more disastrous his setbacks. Strong air power and sophisticated devices can in no way stave off his failure. Nixon has failed and is irremediably doomed. Just as a French correspondent has put it, "this battle which should have been a total success for electronic technology has once again turned out to be a victory for the dramatic creativeness of the adversary and the way he wields the weapons known so far to be less effective in others' hands."

South Viet Nam
the land, people and history

Ca Mau point

ON a map of Viet Nam, Ca Mau Point looks like a finger pointing to the Phu Quoc sea area. But a man standing there does not know where the cape exactly is, he sees only endless waves washing his feet, on an immense flat sea beach which expands at ebb-tide as far as his eyes can see.

Standing on this tip, he can enjoy the sun rising from under the sea in the East and setting in the West. Towards the South Hon Khoai Island offers the profile of a huge vessel mounting guard on this extreme end of the land.

On Ca Mau cape there existed a hamlet called "Cape Hamlet" with some a 500-population. It was gradually eroded by sea waves as it was built right on the eastern fringe of the territory; then during the 2nd French aggression enemy boats from time to time landed in the hamlet troops who indulged in arson and looting, and as a result the local people thought it more advisable to move to the forests where they dug arroyos and erected scattered groups of houses. Guerilla units were organized and the invaders beaten back upon their landing. What remains now of "Cape Hamlet" is only thousands of coconut trees with their beheaded trunks standing like big fish traps on the beach at rising tide — nothing to remind one of the prosperity of yore.

The Yanks and their valets must look out, because this southernmost tip of Viet Nam is far from being a no man's land. Several times in their "mopping up" operations mounted against the U Minh forest, their troops which stayed on the sea coast to give support to the invading columns, were killed by the hundreds. Making use of versatile fighting methods inherited from their forebears, the "Cape Hamlet" people have tolerated no aggressor, be he the most cruel one, to occupy their territory for the last quarter of a century.

Ca Mau Point has three kinds of resources: mangrove, fishing and milpa farming.

Nature has endowed South Viet Nam with inexhaustible riches. Ca Mau beach is renowned for its ca duong and the sea there is teeming with crayfish, crab, fish of all kinds, many of them being of a high value, such as the ca khoi, ca vồ, ca chem, *but all second to the* ca duong.

Ca duong is of an oblong form, weighing at least 2 pounds, usually 6-10 pounds, apiece. Cooked with sour ingredients, it gives a delicious dish. Salted and dried in slices, it fetches high prices. For the past decades, however, South Viet Nam being engaged in a bitter fight against US aggression, there has been a serious shortage of manpower and as a result the ca duong *has no longer been captured for its food value but for its bladder which is as thick and round as a knife handle, scores of inches long, and which can be steamed after being fried with sugar candy into a highly efficient tonic. At sumptuous feasts, the bladder of* ca duong *prepared with chicken soup and other ingredients is rated a delicacy on a par with the "shark flipper" dish.*

Every year when comes the fishing season, fishermen from Ca Mau and the surrounding areas including the Ong Doc River, the Bo De mouth, and even from Go Cong and Ben Tre, all converge here to capture ca duong.

As the nets are lifted, the captured fish are hurriedly drawn and their bladders extracted and what remains is thrown into the sea. And again the nets are cast.

Toward the end of the fishing season, dead bodies of ca duong *float on the water, forming several miles long and three feet thick layers, and the tides will push them on the beach. Then comes the rainy season, those dead fish get rotten; with their pick-axes the local people mix them with the sand. Seeds are now sown and soon small plants grow up which need only a new layer of manure made from crayfish, to yield fruit. Crayfish manure is literally inexhaustible at Ca Mau Point. Each family in "Cape Hamlet" can obtain tons of crayfish every night. Once taken, crayfish are boiled in water then sun-dried for four or five days on lattices made from coconut trunks. They are dusted by women and small girls to become finally as small as a finger tip. Scarlet red, they have a delicious taste. If the peasants of Hau Giang liberated zone must have at their disposal several rooms to store their paddy, likewise the "Cape Hamlet" fishermen must have the same amount of space to stock their crayfish until they are collected by the NFL Economic Committee. Crayfish manure is purchased by the Committee too, when it is made possible by the number of boats it can marshall. But as we are in war conditions, crayfish manure has often to be used to fertilize the milpas. All plants grown by the "Cape Hamlet" people, including beet root, manioc, melon, etc., are big sized and tastier than those grown elsewhere; they are sold as far as My Tho, Can Tho, Saigon and even Phnom Penh.*

It has become a habit among the "Cape Hamlet" people to tell one another: "Let's fight until the Yanks quit and the puppets topple", — in accordance with President Ho's teaching — so as to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate national reunification. When that moment comes, they will propose to the government to build a canning factory on this extreme tip of the Fatherland. And undoubtedly the world will then have the opportunity of tasting tinned ca duong *which can rival other sea-fish in all the five continents.*

This most cherished wish of the Ca Mau people is now coming true, as more and more enemy posts are levelled, and enemy troops-both American and Saigon-are wiped out by the heroic people and armed forces of South Viet Nam. And these lines of poet To Huu, written in the wake of the Dien Bien Phu victory, assume more significance than ever:

"... We are marching on. Nothing
can separate
The Muc Nam Quan Gate from
Ca Mau Point
Above our heads there is only
one sky
And the same sea extends from
North to South..."

PHAM TUONG HANH

For Our Beloved Fatherland

ON March 14, 1972, the Vietnamese Intellectuals' Association in France published a protest against the arrest, detention and torture of intellectuals and students in South Viet Nam towns by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration.

Along with US escalation of the war throughout Indochina, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has frenziedly increased its persecution. According to the Saigon Students' General Association, Huynh Tan Mam has been savagely tortured and his life is hanging by a thread. Many intellectuals have been apprehended, including Bui Quang Phuc, President of the Hue Popular Movement for Peace, journalist Thieu Son, Pham Trong Can, professor at the National Institute of Music.

The Vietnamese Intellectuals' Association strongly protests against the arrest, detention and torture visited by the Nguyen Van Thieu totalitarian administration upon intellectuals and students in South Viet Nam cities. The association demands that the Nguyen Van Thieu rule immediately stop its repression and release those arrested.

The Vietnamese intellectuals' Association in France earnestly appeals to French opinion and democratic organizations, first and foremost to the French students and intellectuals, to take prompt actions against the Nguyen Van Thieu's victimization and the war of aggression of the Nixon administration in Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese intellectuals in France conveys to the intellectuals and students in South Viet Nam towns its greetings of solidarity and pledges to remain behind them in the struggle for peace and independence of the fatherland.

ACCORDING to a special news bulletin of *Su Menh* (Mission), organ of the Vietnamese Residents' Organization in Japan, while the Nixon administration is trumpeting about its "goodwill for peace" and "era of negotiation," the US Air Force has been increasing strikes with 7-ton bombs at villages and hamlets in South Viet Nam and US aircraft have been repeatedly attacking populated areas in North Viet Nam. The Vietnamese nationals in Japan and Japanese, American and Canadian progressives there held a demonstration and handed a protest to the US Embassy in Tokyo.

On New Year's eve in Tokyo, supporters of peace in Viet Nam, coming from various parts of Japan, gathered at Jetro, a building lying on the road leading to the US Embassy heavily guarded by Japanese armed police.

Before pressmen, radio and TV reporters, representatives of Vietnamese residents read the protest letter and then answered questions submitted by them. Canadian Artiste Donald Sutherland of the Jane Fonda anti-war troupe who had just arrived in Japan, voiced support for the Vietnamese nationals' position and denounced the Nixon administration's inhuman use of 7-ton bombs against villages and hamlets and innocent people in South Viet Nam.

After speeches delivered by a number of Japanese and American delegates, participants in the gathering turned out into the streets and in orderly lines marched on the US Embassy. Japanese police tried to halt the paraders but unsuccessfully. The marchers told them in the face that they were going to the US Embassy to hand in a protest against the Nixon administration's countless war crimes in both zones of Viet Nam. A representative of Vietnamese residents said: "The Americans have come to Viet Nam to slaughter our people. You are Asians like us, why do you lend them a hand." John, an American friend, also said to the Japanese police: "Why do you back the Nixon administration's murderous policy?"

The US Embassy in Tokyo tried its best to dodge the Vietnamese residents but in face of the latter's resolve backed by their Japanese, American and Canadian friends, John Leoyd, connsellor of the US Embassy, had to receive the protest letter.

Following were the four points of the letter:

"1 — Stop definitely the bombing of North Viet Nam;

2 — Withdraw completely and unconditionally the American troops from Viet Nam;

3 — Put an end to the Vietnamization program which, in nature, is nothing but the killing of Vietnamese by Vietnamese;

4 — Recognize the fundamental right of national self-determination and take serious attitude towards the Paris Conference."

After leaving the US Embassy, the Vietnamese residents' deputation thanked the paraders for their approval of and support to their just cause.

A MOUNTING PROTEST

TAM was angered by his interview with the proctor. The dinner bell of the campus had gone but he was sitting still, looking at the gate.

From the Perfume River gusts of wind came, scattering dry leaves on the yard. It also overwhelmed man, fluttered the Saigon flag on the Imperial Palace gate and moved drifting thick clouds over Hue city.

In the streets truck after truck ran past, carrying US soldiers and hounds. Now and then some Yanks flung cigarette butts at the Vietnamese children walking on the pavement with guffaws.

Tam felt a heavy burden on his chest and on his mind. He clearly recalled the stout and arrogant proctor (an ex-major of the Saigon army) cross-examining him about his third-year end of term paper on: "The fate of national culture is closely bound up with that of the nation. The development and defence of national culture cannot be dissociated from the struggle for complete national independence." The official angrily charged that the theme was not on the programme and the essay was directed at the cultural and education policy of the national government beneficiary of US aid...

As a matter of fact, he was right. For Tam's writing expressed his and his friends's views on the Vietnamese national culture and education under US invasion. This was exposed with trenchant arguments. Tam felt he had done a good thing in conformity with the sense of honour and conscience of a Vietnamese student filled with love, respect and pride for the cultural tradition of a 4,000-year-old nation. But most detestably the proctor had vilified Tam's father, a dedicated professor of history in a private high school who used to remind his students that, "We do not learn national history just to know it but to follow in our forefathers' steps and build and defend our country." The man had impudently said, "You want to walk in the shoes of your old potty professor father, don't you?"

All of a sudden regular footfalls were heard. It was Xuan, Tam's friend.

"Are you love-sick?" Xuan asked. "I believe you have not seen Thanh Loan from the history section over the past two months, because of your paper."

"You are wrong. Thanh Loan gave up three months ago, preferring another path than sitting here like us!"

"Have you heard from her?"

"Not yet. But we surely will."

Xuan offered Tam a cigarette then both made for the flower-garden looking down on the dark green Perfume River.

In a beige spacious room, at an oval table covered with a pink cloth in a corner of which stood a statue of Liberty, the proctor sat perusing Tam's dissertation. From time to time he left his arm-chair, wiped his short-sight spectacles, then went to a nearby cupboard and took long draughts from a bottle of whisky. Thumbing through an album of his "Army days," he gazed at a photo of himself before taking over the command of the Mad Buffalo battalion. After that, he returned to Tam's work and made pencil marks on every line in it. Suddenly an idea flashed into his mind — he needed photos to record his "days as a desk-bound official." This prompted him to take a long draught of whisky after which the emptied bottle was thrown into a waste paper basket.

An historic day: March 19, 1950 in Saigon

Now he spaced back and forth in his room, absorbed in his reminiscences on 20 years in the army and the past two years as a proctor at the head of the Mad Buffalo battalion to watch the students' activities. O God, he had escaped death when Mad Buffaloes were wiped out in 1968, but the students were rising up. This fuse of the townsfolk's unrest ignited in actions against the US aggression, the war, the foreign-inspired cultural and educational policy of the national government under such forms as "theatrical evenings on our origins", "songs for our fellow-countrymen" and now these essays against the USA and the government. "Better wait for Bunker's directives then act with confidence," he thought.

The telephone rang. The city mayor asked him to bring the list of the Faculty of Letters draft-age students for the US consulate.

The proctor knitted his brows and tapped his forehead: he had already drawn it up, but the students had gone on strike for over a week to protest impress. This made him sweat profusely despite the mild weather of Hue in spring.

That night the campus had but a few lights on because most of the students had boycotted the militarization of their colleges. Tam and a number of his friends had been entrusted with the writing of essays on "cultural enslavement by foreigners." Tam had performed his task.

That morning at his bureau, the proctor had lashed out at Tam, who then asked that his dissertation be submitted to a Board of Professors and student delegates. This was the second step in the struggle to "defend national culture and education and oppose college militarization."

After leaving Xuan, Tam returned to his room, switched on the light and checked a typed copy of his dissertation in an enthusiastic mood.

There was a knock at his door. The visitors were:

— A professor representing the Board of Professors of Literature at the Hue Saigon Faculty.

— A student from the Executive Committee of Hue College and High Schools.

— Two Hue-based correspondents of Saigon papers in English and Vietnamese.

All of them were carrying copies of Tam's work and engaged in discussion with its author. After more than an hour the professor concluded: "This is a fairly good composition, giving a true picture of the national culture and education enslaved by foreigners and currently condemned by academic circles and the press in Saigon and Hue. We take sides with its author and will defend it at any cost when the proctor brings it before the Board of Professors."

Just at that moment, at the gate of Hue College, Xuan and his friends hung a big banner reading "Resolutely defend national culture and education!

Down with US enslaving culture!

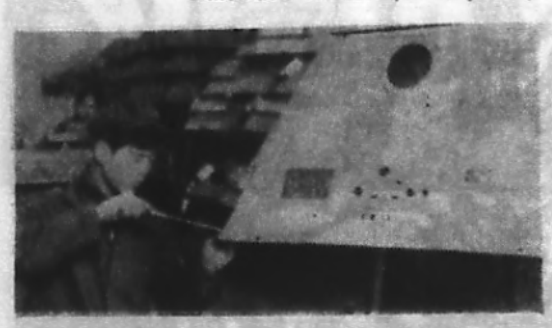
Governor Bunker go home!"

The protest was mounting.

March 1972

PHONG LAN

Automatic radiator for the poultry



the DRVN in brief

o Some Hanoi industrial enterprises are able now to turn out hen-rearing automated equipment.

The system includes transmission belts for food and water, and radiators, all of them automatically operated.

o The Reunification Committee of the DRVN National Assembly, has met under the chairmanship of Mrs Nguyen Thi Luu to review the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Unanimity has been reached on many problems.

The Committee strongly denounced the Nixon administration's stepped-up use of high technology and lethal weapons against the Vietnamese nation, and continuation in office of the bellicose traitor Nguyen Van Thieu to cover up US aggression in South Viet Nam. It fully supported the DRVN Foreign Ministry March 6, 1972 protest against US air raids on the DRVN.

The Committee demanded that the US government seriously respond to the seven-point proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

o The Archaelogical Department has just unearthed at Go Dong Dau, Yen Lac district, Vinh Phu province, a certain amount of 3,300 years old rice in ovens three metres deep under the ground.

This shows that rice was already used as food at the birth of our nation.

***

Citrus used as a medicine

Our citrus weighing one-seventh of a kilogramme each fruit, with a thick skin rich in essence and vitamins, has great pharmaceutical properties. In many countries, its skin is crushed and macerated in honey to be taken in small doses each morning by those who suffer from heart-disease or high blood pressure.

In our country, this kind of citrus is grown on state farms and gives good crops. In 1972, the Co Do, Cao Phong, Van Du... farms will deliver hundreds of tons of citrus for export.

Pipless Mandarines

The mandarines grown since long on Van Du state farm (Thanh Hoa province) yield fruit as big as oranges. It has a thick skin, a reddish colour, few fibres, a sweet taste and almost no pips.

On Chau mandarines of world renown which are grown on Thanh Ha state farm (Hoa Binh province) have no pips either.

At present, there is a great demand on the world markets for mandarines. Many people in our parts like mandarines, especially the On Chau, Van Du kinds.

Over the past years, Van Du mandarines have been grown on Dong Hieu, Song Con state farms.

Walking 25,000 miles with a load of 50 tons

One can travel round the earth in boats, planes or space-ships. But in our country some people do it on foot, carrying 50 tons of iron. Are they Giants? No, one of them for instance is a small and handsome messenger—Nguyen Viet Sinh by name—of the Quang Trung military transport unit. There are many in the same unit who have walked a mileage equivalent to the circumference of the earth or more!

Laos: US INTENSIFIED AGGRESSION IN LAOS EXPOSED

THE Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee has denounced US step-up of the war in Laos in a declaration on March 9, *Khaosan Pathet Lao News Agency* reported.

"Under the 'Nixon doctrine'," the statement said, "the Nixon administration, pitting Lao against Lao, has brought its 'special warfare' to an extreme degree of fierceness and cruelty."

"The US imperialists have deployed more and more Thai troops in combined actions with the 'Special Forces' raised by them and the Lao rightist faction."

"At the same time, they have carried out furious bombings and strafings against the liberated zone in preparation for fresh encroaching operations in the Paksong, Boloven and other areas in Southern Laos. They have increased the number of B.52s at Utapao and in Guam to 50 which they are using together with 500 jets and planes of other types based in Thailand and on aircraft-carriers stationed in the gulfs of Tonkin and Thailand. Every day these planes drop thousands of tons of bombs on Laos, apart from those released by the Saigon regime's bombers."

"While stepping up military and political activities, the US imperialists are strengthening the quisling Vientiane administration into an effective instrument for the realization of their neo-colonialist policy in Laos. At present they are rallying their agents in a Vientiane-Bangkok-Saigon-Phnom Penh military alliance. More especially they are strengthening co-operation between Vientiane and Bangkok reactionaries in order to consolidate the Mekong defence line."

"The Lao Patriotic Front strongly protests against the intensification of the aggressive war and this new military adventure of the American imperialists and insists that the US government end its intervention and aggression in Laos, and respect Laos' independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity which have been recognized by the 1962 Geneva agreement."

Fighting on the same front with the Lao people, the South Vietnamese fully support the LPF Central Committee March 3, 1972 declaration. As emphasized by the PRG Foreign Ministry statement of March 13, "The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam strongly condemn the US cruel aggression and intensification of the war that the Nixon administration has been obstinately waging against the Lao people, and urge that they end their aggression in Laos."

The South Vietnamese people warn that the Nixon administration and its lackeys in Vientiane, Bangkok and Saigon should bear full responsibility for the serious consequences of their military adventure.

Cambodia: US-Saigon aggression against Cambodia condemned

ACCORDING to *AKI*, on March 15, 1972 the spokesman of the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union strongly protested in a statement a fresh aggression against Cambodia by the US imperialists and the Saigon troops.

The statement pointed out that "On March 10, 1972 the US imperialists and their hirelings in Saigon embarked upon a new military venture to further their aggression against Cambodia. They staged major looting and destructive sweeps along Highway 7 (eastern Cambodia), in the Parrot's Beak area and along Highway 1. Over 4,000 Saigon mercenaries with the support of armour, artillery and aviation took part in this foray.

The Cambodian Royal Government of National Union severely condemned this new criminal operation of the US imperialists and their agents against Cambodia."

After recalling the lamentable setbacks of the US-Saigon troops in 1971 on the Cambodian battlefield, the statement continued: "This fresh military adventure obviously aims at staving off the inevitable collapse of the Phnom Penh traitors and their rotten fascist regime. It also proves that the US steps up and extends Nixon's crimimal 'Vietnamization' of the war against Cambodia. It gives the lie to the hypocritical claims of Nixon to strive after 'peace' in Asia and to try to ease the tension in this area of the world while obdurately carrying on his aggressive war in Cambodia and Indochina as a whole."

Fully aware of the motive of the US-Saigon new scheme and military venture, the South Vietnamese people are determined to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Cambodian people and deal harder blows at the US imperialists and their Saigon lackeys to thwart Nixon's reactionary policy of "playing off Indochinese against Indochinese." Their rabid obstinacy does not prove they are strong, but reflects their weakness.

They are doomed to failure.

Hearty welcome to the victorious Cambodian PLAF

"PEACE IN INDOCHINA NOW!"

30,000 *Parisians hailing the Versailles World Assembly's Appeal*

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

THAILAND

The Thai patriotic armed forces attacked on March 7 and 8 a police post, ambushed an enemy patrol in Thanon Si Thamarat and assaulted a "people's defence" post in Korat, killing 8 adverse men.

Earlier, in the first two months of 1972, the patriotic forces had repeatedly fought off dozens of raids by the Bangkok troops, including a major one in 3 northern provinces of Thailand, wiping out over 800 enemy troops, downing or damaging 43 aircraft, levelling 22 police and "people's defence" posts and destroying dozens of military vehicles.

THE PHILIPPINES

The Filipino liberation army and people in 1971 beat off 12 big operations of the Marcos administration, killing or wounding 600 men, punishing 230 thugs, and wrecking 4 enemy aircraft and many vehicles.

Since early 1972, series of demonstrations against the US and the Marcos dictatorial regime have erupted in several places. On March 13, about 5,000 students and workers paraded in Manila for abrogation of the reactionary "anti-subversion" decree and release of all political prisoners. At a gathering before Congress Building, delegates of several mass organizations pointed out that the so-called "anti-subversion" decree only served the US imperialists in repressing the Filipino people.

PALESTINE

In the past two months Palestinian guerillas have mounted 62 operations and ambushes against the Israeli aggressors in the Arab regions under their control. 230 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded, 2 aircraft brought down, 22 barracks flattened, 32 military vehicles and 3 factories destroyed, and 32 other establishments damaged.

MOZAMBIQUE

The patriotic armed forces in Cabo Delgado province put out of action in December 1971 and January 1972 120 Portuguese colonialist troops, wrecked 16 military vehicles and blew up a bridge.

CHILE

People throughout the country have recently held several meetings and marches in support of the Allende government's resolute position and in protest against the draft law on the amendment of the constitution tabled by the Chilean US-masterminded reactionary elements to sap the government's nationalization programme of foreign capitalist companies, especially of the American companies.

in brief

o The *Week of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People* was recently observed in several countries of the world. In the Soviet Union, the KDPR, Mongolia, the GDR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Algeria, Finland... demonstrations, meetings, exhibitions, Viet Nam film shows were held, and tribunals set up to try the US aggressors. Many resolutions, petitions were passed against the US imperialists' aggressive war and for the Vietnamese and Indochinese people's legitimate struggles.

o In a speech delivered in Stockholm on March 11, the Swedish Foreign Minister strongly condemned US "Vietnamization" of the war as not a policy of peace, but prolongation of war though the bulk of the US armed forces has been withdrawn.

o The Algeria - Yugoslavia and Guinea - Nigeria joint communiqués signed in March 1972 re-affirmed solidarity with, and support for, the 7-point proposal advanced by the RSVN PRG, especially the clarifications of the two key questions in the February 2, 1972 statement, and regarded them as a practical basis of a fair political solution to the Viet Nam issue.

in brief

o A month of Viet Nam films called "Viet Nam, the Cinematography of a Fighting People" was inaugurated on March 8 in Paris by the France-Viet Nam Friendship Association and the French Cinema and TV Channel 10.

o The British Campaign for Peace in Viet Nam held on March 8 a get-together in Westminster between representatives of British peace organizations which had participated in the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina in Versailles last February and British MPs. The gathering denounced the new and serious US war escalations in Indochina and called on the British people to step up actions to stop the Nixon administration's frantic moves.

Earlier on March 6, the same Campaign held an anti-US war meeting in Medway (Kent).

o Four Italian youth organizations in Como City have recently called a meeting in support of the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression. Many delegates took the floor to highlight the Vietnamese effort as a glowing example for the Italian working people's actions for social welfare and democratic freedoms.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION